

Westminster Words

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Westminster Church & Preschool
1100 Jeffras Avenue Marion IN 46952

Psalm 19:14

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer"

Pastor's Epistle: Lent reminds us of the way of the cross

You will not see many, if any, signs of it in the community. There won't be store windows decorated for, nor will you view nary a commercial about, this most ancient of Christian seasons. In fact, most people treat this liturgical period of time as if it's the "ugly" step sister to the more beautifully adorned and doted over big sister Advent. What am I talking about? I'm talking about Lent of course, the less understood and even less recognized time during the church year wherein we follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem, and the cross.

What we hear during Lent is that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. The new life that is beyond the power of death demands that we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live.

Can you see now why so many people prefer Advent and Christmastime? Celebrating the birth of a baby is joyful; walking with a loved one through to the day of their death is sorrowful. And so is, and must be to some degree, the season of Lent, in order for us to truly understand the reason for this ancient Christian season.

This is why, at the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families, and even our very lives do not last forever. As was said to those assembled on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" [Gen. 3:19]. The liturgies we sing and say each Sunday throughout Lent are all an attempt to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from holding fast to the presumed securities of this life as the season seeks to plunge us into the baptismal waters of Jesus Christ, waters that turn out to be not only our tomb, but also our womb of eternal life.

I invite you to walk with your loved one, our beloved Lord Jesus Christ, as he goes from Gethsemane to Golgotha, as he suffers the cost of living a fully faithful and obedient life unto God, that cost being death on a cross. Let the same mind be in you that was in him, allowing your mind to be renewed once again this Lenten season so that you may be able to discern what God deems good, and not what the world wishes were true.

Blessings, Pastor Justin

The Season of Lent



*Remember man thou art dust
and to dust thou shalt return*

Presbyterians are: Looking toward the future

as posted on www.pcusa.org

Presbyterians in the 21st century have a vision of ministry that is vibrant and inviting and reflects the love and justice of Jesus Christ.

The denomination has set four mission priorities for the next phase of our life as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

Evangelism and Witness - We are called to invite all people to faith, repentance and the abundant life of God in Jesus Christ, to encourage congregations in joyfully sharing the gospel, and through the power of the Holy Spirit to grow in membership and discipleship.

Justice and Compassion - We are called to address wrongs in every aspect of life and the whole of creation, intentionally working with and on behalf of poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people as did Jesus Christ, even

at risk to our corporate and personal lives.

Spirituality and Discipleship- We are called to deeper discipleship through Scripture, worship, prayer, study, stewardship and service and to rely on the Holy Spirit to mold our lives more and more into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Leadership and Vocation - We are called to lead by Jesus Christ's example, to identify spiritual gifts and to equip and support Christians of all ages for faithful and effective servant leadership in all parts of the body of Christ.

With the knowledge that in life and death we belong to God, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) continues the journey with hope and confidence as we move toward a third century of witness and service to a world in need of love.

Carry-in Dinner

Westminster's Deacons are pouring out the blessings with a St. Patrick's Day Carry-in dinner on Sunday, March 15 following worship. The Deacons will provide chicken, corned beef and cabbage, and desserts. All who attend are asked to bring a dish of their choice.

Plan to stay after church and enjoy a wonderful fellowship dinner with your church family. Bring a hearty appetite for enjoyment of the good food provided.



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Pastor's home phone #: 765-384-4417
Pastor's cell phone #: 480-586-6829

Informational

"In obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ and with His help: healing what is broken, righting what is wrong, celebrating what is good"

Join us for Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. & Worship at 10:45 a.m. - Sundays!

Church Staff

- Rev. Justin Schlesinger-Devlin, MSW**
- Pastor
- Laurie Wolcott** - Pastoral Assistant
- Libby Holloway** - Administrative Asst.
- Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin** -
Preschool Director
- Ellen Schramm** - Director of Music
- Nancy Wright** - Organist
- Linda Rosen** - Pianist
- April Raver** - Coordinator of
Youth Ministries
- Allen Kincaid** - Sr High Youth Leader
- Heather Kirkwood** - Sr High Youth Leader
- Vangie White** - Nursery Caregiver

El Sembrador goal reached

Congratulations, Westminster, your gifts to the boys of El Sembrador are appreciated! The pledge of \$4,000 has been reached! A check will be sent this week to World Gospel Mission for the boys' school in the amount of \$4,020.00. Thanks go out to all who so whole-heartedly supported this mission!

Thanks for ATF funds!

A big thank you to everyone who baked and bid on goodies for the youth's baked goods auction last Sunday! Over \$300 was raised toward the youth's trip to Acquire the Fire! Thank you, also, to everyone who voted on Westminster's tackiest t-shirt! Forty dollars was raised through this contest! Congratulations to Pastor Justin and family, who's smiley face shirt was voted the tackiest t-shirt. They won a gift certificate for the Ice House. Thanks to everyone who brought in shirts.

Thanks for cards & prayers

Thank you Westminster Family for the many cards, prayers, kind words, food, visits, and telephone calls during my time of healing from a broken hip. It has been a long, long seven weeks but I plan to graduate from a walker to a cane this week and hopefully I will be in church on Sunday. God Bless all of you. Love and Prayers Betty Wease

Over \$400 was pledged by the members of Westminster *in addition to* the baked goods and t-shirt monies to make sure every youth who wants to attend Acquire the Fire will be able to attend. Again, thank you to ALL who have participated!

Have information for the newsletter?

E-mail westminsterwords@indy.rr.com, call April Raver at 765-661-6110, or drop it in the communications mailbox in the mail room at church. **Deadline for submissions to the next issue is March 27.**

Word Scramble

Can you unscramble the names of these books of the Bible?

- seesign
- hemwatt
- usedox
- visitclue
- nailed
- nominaltaste
- violentera
- lastagain
- hazephina
- asheepsin
- onmars
- moodytenure
- hobaida
- ijeerham
- hemplion
- ashoe



Second annual talent show to be held March 7

Westminster will be holding its second annual Talent Show on **March 7**. Sign up today to sing, act, play an instrument, or whatever other talent you may have!

Last year's show was amazing, and this year's is sure to be even better! Sign up in the Narthex after church today and be sure to mark your calendars now to come watch this fun event!



Family Ice Skating Fun in Ft. Wayne



Wee Leader

Director: Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin Preschool phone: 765-662-3526 preschool@westminstermarion.com

Upcoming Events

- March 1st Preschool Minute for Mission
- March 2nd Grandparent visit
- March 4th & 6th conferences
- March 9th Dr. Seuss's birthday
- March 11th & 12th visit to public library
- March 12th Staff Meeting 12:30
- March 17th Preschool Advisory Meeting 6pm
- No School March 20-27th



Gifts, support, & Memorials

Thank you to James & Ruth Ann Botkin for their continued support to the preschool. We thank our Pastor Visitors this month as well. It was a pleasure having Jeremy Hite, Robert Dexter, and Seth Harshman as our Pastor visitors. We enjoyed a visit from Hank Martin as well; he shared his knowledge with our children about appreciating. Thank you to Ethan Brown's family for the gracious donations of puzzles to the preschool.



From the Director

The Preschool is thrilled to share with our families and church members the upcoming enrollment information for our Full Day preschool program. We will begin enrollment March 1st for current families and church members, we will open enrollment to the public March 16th. We will be offering preschool for children ages one to five, Monday through Friday! If you have questions please feel free to drop in or call the office at 765-662-3526. We are excited to begin a Full day program and celebrating our 40th year of ministry to children in August 10th, 2009! Keep your eyes open for more details to come!

We are also announcing the Andrew Schramm Memorial Scholarship. It is available to alumni of Westminster Presbyterian Preschool, for students who are graduating from high school Spring 2009. Applicants need to submit a brief summary by April 6th, 2009 with the following information:

- Years attended at preschool
- A benefit of the experience
- A favorite preschool memory
- Future plans
- Financial need

Send to: Director: Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin
1100 Jeffras Ave. Marion, IN 46952 Or to
preschool@westminstermarion.com
The award recipient will be notified by May 4th 2009.



A challenge to our congregation:

We are looking at our full day program beginning August 10, 2009. We have a wonderful reputation for the amazing ministry work we do within the preschool. Part of the work we do is supporting children who would be unable to attend preschool without the financial support of donations. We have 13 children who are on scholarships this year. I am challenging you to support a child with their tuition by making a pledge. The ability to offer support to more of our children and the activities at the preschool answers our call to the ministry of our children. Preschool friends have also paid for expenses that are beyond what tuition income allows: building sets, riding toys, books and learning materials.

Financial support is one way of the many ways you can support the preschool. You may share in this ministry by committing your time. We seek out faithful volunteers to help with the Young Library, in the office, cooking, or to be a helper in the classrooms.

Cute sayings from preschool

After returning from her Hawaii vacation, Zoe informed Mrs. Collins that hula dancers wear bumpers when they dance. "Husband" Seth & "Wife" Erin were playing. Erin tripped and Seth said, "Oh, Hon are you alright?" Karver said at snack "I'm a big fan of broccoli." After we said "Amen" Maddox said "that means let it be so." Mason told his Granma that today was "Hotel Day" (Show and Tell Day).

Inspirational

Devotional Reading: God's coffee cup

by **Author Unknown**
as posted on www.rogerknapp.com/

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said:

"If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress.

Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink.

What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... And then you began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live.

Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups..... Enjoy your

coffee!

"The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything."

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

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